



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SEP 25 2014

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Tom Cotton
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cotton:

Thank you for your letter of June 10, 2014, to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy regarding the Clean Power Plan for Existing Power Plants that was signed by the Administrator on June 2, 2014, and published in the *Federal Register* on June 18, 2014. The Administrator asked that I respond on her behalf.

Climate change induced by human activities is one of the greatest challenges of our time. It already threatens human health and welfare and our economic well-being, and if left unchecked, it will have devastating impacts on the United States and the planet. Power plants are the largest source of carbon dioxide emissions in the United States, accounting for roughly one-third of all domestic greenhouse gas emissions.

The Clean Power Plan aims to cut energy waste and leverage cleaner energy sources by doing two things. First, it uses a national framework to set achievable state-specific goals to cut carbon pollution per megawatt hour of electricity generated. Second, it empowers the states to chart their own paths to meet their goals. The proposal builds on what states, cities and businesses around the country are already doing to reduce carbon pollution, and when fully implemented in 2030, carbon emissions will be reduced by approximately 30 percent from the power sector across the United States when compared with 2005 levels. In addition, we estimate the proposal will cut the pollution that causes smog and soot by 25 percent, avoiding up to 100,000 asthma attacks and 2,100 heart attacks by 2020.

Before issuing this proposal, the EPA heard from more than 300 stakeholder groups from around the country, including from Arkansas, to learn more about what programs are already working to reduce carbon pollution. These meetings, with states, utilities, labor unions, nongovernmental organizations, consumer groups, industry, and others, reaffirmed that states are leading the way. The Clean Air Act provides the tools to build on these state actions in ways that will achieve meaningful reductions and recognizes that the way we generate power in this country is diverse, complex and interconnected.

In your letter, you requested that the EPA hold additional public hearings on this rule, including one in Arkansas. During the week of July 29th, the EPA conducted eight full days of public hearings in four cities. Over 1,300 people shared their thoughts and ideas about the proposal and over 1,400 additional people attended those hearings. The public comment period remains open and all comments submitted, regardless of method of submittal, will receive the same consideration.

We appreciate you and your constituents' views about the effects of the proposal. We encourage you and all interested parties to provide us with detailed comments on all aspects of the proposed rule. Recognizing that the proposal asks for comment on a range of issues, some of which are complex, the EPA initially proposed this rule with a 120-day comment period. The EPA has decided to extend the comment period by an additional 45 days, in order to get the best possible advice and data to inform a final rule.

The public comment period will now remain open until December 1, 2014. We encourage you and all interested parties to provide us with detailed comments on all aspects of the proposed rule. We have submitted your letter to the rulemaking docket, but additional comments can be submitted via any one of these methods:

- Federal eRulemaking portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- E-mail: A-and-R-Docket@epa.gov. Include docket ID number HQ-OAR-2013-0602 in the subject line of the message.
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Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Cheryl Mackay in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at mackay.cheryl@epa.gov or at (202) 564-2023.

Sincerely,



Janet G. McCabe
Acting Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SEP 25 2014

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Tim Griffin
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Griffin:

Thank you for your letter of June 10, 2014, to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy regarding the Clean Power Plan for Existing Power Plants that was signed by the Administrator on June 2, 2014, and published in the *Federal Register* on June 18, 2014. The Administrator asked that I respond on her behalf.

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Janet G. McCabe
Acting Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SEP 25 2014

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Rick Crawford
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Crawford:

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Janet G. McCabe
Acting Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SEP 25 2014

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

The Honorable Steve Womack
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Womack:

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